MIDDLE WEST WOULD SUFFER MOST IN CASE

OF FOREIGN INVASION IS LESSON LEARNED IN EUROPE'S WAR, ASSERTS FREDERICK PALMER

Any Great Power, Such as Germany, France or Japan, Could Land an Army So Powerful in Numbers that the U. S. Would Be Utterly Helpless, He Says.

By FREDERICK PALMER.

HAT part of the United States should take the most selfish interest in preparedness? Not the Atlantic coast, facing the armaments of all Europe; not the Pacific coast, exposed between the walls of the Rockies and Asia-but the middle west.

The great war proves that proximity to the firing line does not imply more suffering than distance from it. One of its clearest lessons for us is that in case of an invasion of the United States by a foreign power, or any combination of foreign powers, the Mississippi valley would be the hardest

Only the regions occupied by the invader and where the fighting actually took place would suffer more distress in heart and pocket than the west.

The farms of the west produce some of our sturdiest sons. They would go into battle with all the courage of the Iron Brigade in the civil war. Mourning among wives and mothers would be no less common on the banks of the Missouri than the banks of the Hudson. The men who would die in defense of the country would come from all sections, and from the taxpayers of the west as well as the east would come the money to wage the war of defense.

The west is our great producer of raw materials. If a superior navy should blockade our coasts all exports of raw materials and agricultural products would cease overnight. We should see sixty—perhaps forty cent wheat. The only market for our raw materials would be within our own borders. The west would be the worst sufferer from this stagnation of its normal trade in raw materials, the products of its millions of fertile acres.

The great corn belt and the outlying territory can boast of no munition plants and few factories for the making of uniforms, boots, belts, blankets, tents, knapsacks, any of the material which an army consumes. Three-fourths of the war money paid out by employers to employes in such work would go to the eastern seaboard and immediately contiguous territory.

Towns in France Are Cited.

acing the enemy. It would most abundant and energetic Western towns would be position of those of France

War Profits No One in Eng.

more destruction and more cost. We shall not violate the Monroe cost when and or violate the Monroe cost when and the summakers and the south America, it will be the cost at the work and the gummakers and the shipyards and the manufacturers of arms material who none the less will prosper. But do not think that this means profit for the east in the end. Only one section will have to pay me the construction. Whatever rawges and the south of the end. It is destruction, and destruction cannot be construction. Whatever rawges and the most useless kind of murtiles and the south of France must help pay for the restoration of the ruine form the end. The south of France must help pay for the restoration of the vinite form the end. The south of France must help pay for the restoration of the ruine for the end towns on the northern and castern own from Germany, then the big apport of the work freed from the wind of the war. Freed to the war, freed to we have the end of the war, freed to we have the end of the war, freed to we have the end of the war, freed to we have the end of the war, freed to we have the end of the war, freed to we have the end of the war, freed to we have the end of the war, freed to we have the end of the war, freed to we have the end of the war, freed to we have the end of the war, freed to we have the end of the war, freed to we have the work of the war freed from the wind of the war, freed to we have the work of the war freed to we have the work of the war freed to we have the work of the war freed to we have the work of the work of the war freed to we was a unit, and this saved France.

United States Open to Invasion. But can the United States be in-

anything he wanted in New York un-less we paid to keep it.

After the enemy was established in the city hall, the New York police

Advantage of Oversea Attack. the city hall, the New York police would still patrol their beats; the local firemen would put out fires as usual; culprits would be tried for misdemeanors in the local police courts. But no New Yorker would be allowed to bear arms. If he wanted to go outside the city he must have a pass. An allen soldler could enter a house at any time and take the husband or son away for trial before a military court on the charge of aiding the "enemy," who would be his fellow-citizens of the shirt sleeves army wiggling help-

And what could Chicago do? The middle west has no munition plants; it has no means of defense. When the coast cities fall, Chicago falls. To pro-

weeks. For the size of our population we had a larger available army, bet-ter equipped to fight under the condi-tions of that day than we have today. Though ships are larger and faster than in 1812, the Atlantic is not a bit broader. While steam has come and the sea lanes of the world have been shortened, the diameter of the globe

But can the United States be invaded? It can—and every man who is conversant with modern military progress knows it can, even though there is something too startling about the thought to receive the credence of the average citizen when he sits down to his griddle cakes in the morning.

But the imaginative things the fiction writers have been portraying as happening with the invasion would not take place. The skyscrapers of New York will never tumble under seventeen-inch shells of the enemy's guns, nor is an enemy army likely to march on Chicago.

There would be no use in bombarding New York. The enemy would not waste shells in that way. He had rather take half the value of the subtreasury and in "promises to pay." The Germans did not need to bombard Brussels; they had to throw only a few shells into Antwerp. They, marched in. So an enemy would march into New York.

To destroy New York would be like killing the goose that laid the golden age. These great European armies are practical business institutions. They do not waste ammunition for sentiment. All the towns destroyed have been in the fighting lines. The Germans did not injure Lillie, which is well back of the western front. They did take the machinery from the factories home, and an enemy would take austrian force would have landed in back of the western front. They did take the machinery from the factories home, and an enemy would take

Had Germany been free to invade Had Germany been free to invade America instead of going to war with the allies, by using 50 per cent of her tonnage she could have put on board a single expedition of 387,000 men as part of a complete army which would include 81,000 animals: France could have transported 160,000 men and 22,000 animals. In each case this would mean an army as ready in every detail to take the field as those which took the field in Europe at the outset of the present war or which Japan sent to Manchuria ten years ago.

Uncertainty of Coast Attack. The time required for passage and landing would be from two to three weeks from the outbreak of war. In an additional three to six weeks more than dou-ble this number of men could be disem-barked. Therefore we could count on the possibility of from a quarter of a mil-lion to three-quarters of a million troops on our soil in three months sent by a sin-gle power. In that time we might gather 200,000 men into a force which lacked both homogenity and adequate equipment. If we should be struck from the Pacific at the same time as the Atlantic coost If we should be struck from the Pacific at the same time as the Atlantic coast, in which direction would our little army turn first? Think of its situation with a vast stretch of coast line, knowing that an enemy was going to strike, but not knowing where. We should have only thirty or forty sea or army planes to do our scouting. The fleet of enemy transports, protected by its fighting fleet and destroyers, could range up and down to deceive us as to the point of disembarkation.

ing. When she was sure that she had done for France and her legions had advanced overland to finish Russia, she would have landed another force in the Gulf of Riga, striking the Russian army from the rear, while very likely an back toward New England and with the break of day under the protecting fire of

sallipoli, and the soldlers would pour over heir sides or through the opening made in the sides for them.

By night the enemy might have more that the total mobile force of the United States regular army ashore. His aero-planes would be coursing far and near; hose members of the local population, who belored to his say system would belonged to his spy system would

Fake Landings Delude Troops.

England is patroled against any raid the enemy to show his hand. Indeed, to attempt to resist the landing with our present military forces would be utter foily. We could not afford to risk our nucleus of an army in that fashion. All our army might be preparing to defend Norfolk and Washington when the enemy was withdrawing from that region and striking his main blow toward New York and Boston. He would have his immense fleet of ships and we should be dependent upon rail-road trains. Besides, we could hardly mobilize our troops from our scattered posts before the enemy was well on his way across the Atlantic. Then we should need a point of concentration in order that our scattered forces might be whipped into something like a homogeneous working organization.

Big Coast Guns Valueless.

culverts and dropping the

Then one morning the rattle of the milk trains would not be heard on their way to morning coffee and to the sustenance of the babies of New York. All railroad traffic with New York would have ceased. A zone of the wooden houses of our suburbs in flames—so very inflammable compared to those of Europe-would form anto those of Europe—would form another siege line, provided that there
were guerilla resistance. Every one
who tried to pass would find himself f
faced by a sentry as the enemy army
drew in its lines. What next? The
enemy commander-in-chief would send
for the mayor of New York, who would
come, as Max of Brussels came. Like
Max, he might send out word without
waiting for an invitation. He would
plead for his city—the second city in
size in the world. plead for his city—the second city in size in the world.

"But we will have the big guns of our coast defenses," he would say. "You have not yet brought the main body of your army in range of them or of the guns of our navy, which are at anchor in the North river."

The commander-in-chief would smile with the indulgence of a military expert at the politician.

"Yes, they are excellent guns, those of your coast defense—and those of

"Yes, they are excellent guns, those of your coast defense—and those of your cast defense—and those of your navy, too," he would say. "But they are to be fired against armored ships. You have no infantry to defend your town. You Americans overlooked the lesson of Namur's fall, and how the French held Verdun. If one of those big shells happened to hit our infantry line it would get only a few men and make a big hole in the ground. Yours are more likely to destroy American property. We don't want you to do that. Our infantry can go into New York by force. But, of course, that means unnecessary destruction, and, of course, as your big guns have—no infantry to protect them, we can take them, too."

"And our fleet? Must we yield that?" the mayor would ask.
"Naturally, unless it prefers to fight against our superior numbers. No doubt they will, but if they don't, they will fire the magazines. Still, I regret yell in the ships destroyed. If you surrender them, we shall take that into consideration. We shall lay less indemnity."

"But," continues the mayor, "we have

"But," continues the mayor, "we have a big army forming in your rear.
will come to our rescue. Besides, have more food than you think.
short rations we can hold out for ma weeks. I tell you that we shall submit to such humiliating terms, will fight."

Enemy's Calculations Exact.

"I have too high an opinion of your intelligence to ask you what New York will fight with," the enemy commander replies. "Is it the brooms of your street cleaning department, which you will find more efficient, by the way, you will find more efficient, by the way, under our military discipline when we come to take charge of the city? Our intelligence service informs us that you have at present in your concentration camp 80,000 regulars, 80,000 National Guardsmen, and really, we hardly count the volunteers. Our line around New York is very thin, as we face no infantry. We have more than equal numbers to spare to meet your army and have chosen our positions and fortified them, as the Germans did when they fell on the Aisne line. As for your food supply, might I tell you exactly what it is? We have made exact calculations before the war, and our intelligence service inside the city

them? I am afraid that you will have to call us in to restore order, which means bloodshed. Then think of the infant mortality without ice and milk at this season of the year."
"But these terms are murderous, un-

civilized—"
"War is war. Why did we raise and equip this immense army? Murderous? I would save the lives of your people. Shall I move my infantry? Ah, I see that you are going to listen to reason. And this is not your fault, Mr. Mayor. By the way, I see that Congress reassembles in the Ohio statehouse tomorrow. Our intelligence service reports great depression. Some already advise peace, no matter what the national indemnity."

I am not saying that this is going

tional indemnity."

I am not saying that this is going to happen—only that it can happen. It is not fiction, but fact, as proved by this war. And there would be no danger of it happening if we spent an additional \$50,000,000 a year for defense with the wisdom and economy of the big European nations.

NINE DAILY JOURNALS SUPPORTED IN SALONIKI

Four Are in French, Four in Greek and Another in Hebrew-

All of Them Are Bitterly Partisan and None of 150,000 Inhabitants Expects Anything Else.

The French and British troopers sta

and universally read. There are, therefore, four French dailies published in
Saloniki—a morning and an evening
paper for each political point of view
paper for each political point of view paper
paper for the view paper
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BOY OFFICERS WITH "INDEPENDENT COMMANDS" OPPOSE THE ADVANCE OF BULGARIANS; SQUADS EXPECTED TO PERFORM DUTIES OF A COMPANY

Visit to the Allies' Front in Serbia Shows That Troops of Defenders Are Merely Scattered Over the Ground and Are Kept Moving On by the Enemy.

By RICHARD HARDING DAVIS.

ALONIKI, Greece, December 13.—On the day the retreat began from Krivolak Gen. Sarrail, commanding the allies in Serbia, gave the correspondents permission to visit the French and English front. The French advanced position, and a large amount of ammunition, 600 shells to each gun, were then at Krivolak and the English base at Doiran. We left the train at Doiran, after a lunch en route. The Italian correspondent had been detailed as chief of commissariat. But as his idea of campaign rations was hard-boiled eggs and the straw-covered flasks of his native chianti, he was removed from his command. Fortunately, after that, we were the guests of the French army, and the horrors of war, for us, were at an end.

Our French "guide" had not informed the English a "mission militaire" was descending upon them, and, in consequence, at Doiran there were no conveyances to meet us. But a charming English captain commandeered for us a vast motor truck. Stretched above it were ribs to support a canvas top, and by linging to these, as at home on the elevated we hang to a strap, we managed to avoid being bumped out into the road. The English captain, who seemed to have nothing else on his hands, volunteered to act as our escort, and on a splendid hunter galloped ahead of and at the side of the lorry, and, much like a conductor on a sightseeing car, pointed out the objects of interest. When not explaining, he was absent-mindedly jumping his horse over swollen streams, ravines and fallen walls. We found him much more interesting to watch than the scenery.

The scenery was desolate and bleak. It consisted of hills that opened into other hills, from the summit of which more hills stretched to a horizon entirely of mountains. They did not form ridges, but, like men in a crowd, shouldered into one another. They were of a soft rock and covered with snow, above which to the height of your waist rose scrub pine trees and bushes of holly. The rain and snow that ran down their slopes had turned the land into a sea of mud and had swamped the stone roads. In walking, for each step you took forward you skidded and slid several yards back. If you had an hour to spare you had time for a ten-minute walk.

tery was going into action. It had

ON THE QUAY AT SALONIKI.

mend itself through the cheapness of the ammunition.

On the road we met relays of water carts and wagons that had been up the hills with food for the gunners at the front; and engineers were at work repairing the stone bridges or digging detours to avoid those that had disappeared. They were built to support no greater burden than a flock of sheep, an ox cart, or what a donkey can carry on his back, and the assault of the British motor trucks and French six-

waved and the two infants waved back.

I felt I had meanly deserted them, that for his life the mother of each could hold me to account. lars of mud, the gun that stuck and the "independent command," I could see in the twilight the flashes of the guns and two lonely specks of light. They were the King of England cl-gars burning bravely.

dug itself into the side of a hill and covered itself with snow and pine branches. Somewhere on one of the neighboring hill the "spotter" was telephoning the range. The gunners could not see at what they were firing. They could see only the high hill of rock and snow, at the base of which they stood shoulder high in their mud cellars. Ten yards to the rear of them IN DEFENSE OF EGYPT

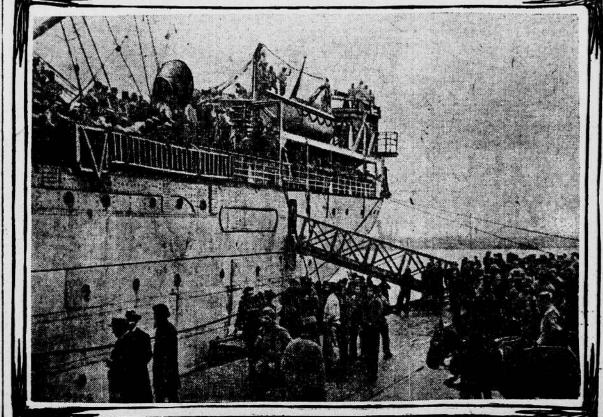
"Egypt's railways, with few and unmportant exceptions, are state undertakings. The Egyptian Delta Light ailway is the largest of the private ines, with 625 miles of trackage. It. like the other privately owned lines, operates in the rich agricultural delta of the lower Nile. The main lines of the state system run from Alexandria, Port Said. Suez and Diametta to Cairo, thus linking up all the more important cities of the rich delta and both ends of the Suez canal with the Egyptian capital. These lines have branches, throughout the region of the lower Nile, where are located the most productive of the world's cotton fields. From Cairo one line follows the western bank of the Nile southward to Nag Hamadi, where it crosses to the cast bank and runs to Luxor and Assouan in upper Egypt, serving the irrigable and fertile core of the great sand waste. ike the other privately owned lines,

and fertile core of the great sand waste.

"In the beginning of the English administration, the Egyptian State railway was in a bad way. Its roadbed was out of repair, its equipment seriously deteriorated, and its locomotives and rolling stock were mostly out-of-date. Its income was not sufficient to keep it in the ways of progress. British army engineers were put in charge, and just before the present war the railroad had become one of the government's principal sources of revenue.

"There were, at the war's outbreak. 1,700 miles of trackage open to traffic in the state railway system. Port Said was connected with Cairo, a distance was connected with Cairo, a distance of 145 miles, on an express schedule of four and one-half hours. From Alexandria to Cairo, a distance of 130 miles, the winter tourist was rushed through to Cairo in just three hours. The Egyptian system was linked up with the Sudan government railway to Khartum and beyond by a steamer service between Assouan and Wadi Halfa.

"Thus the long British frontier, fron "Thus the long British frontier, from the blue Mediterranean to the darkest wilds of interior Africa, was bound to-gether with steel bands before the world's peace ended, and now these lines of rail form one of the highly im-pertant factors in the European strug-gle for the east."



ARRIVAL AND DISEMBARKATION OF FRENCH TROOPS,